

Minutes of the AGMs East Lammermuir Community Benefit Fund Ltd Meeting 1st October 2024

1. Minutes of the AGM of East Lammermuir Community Benefit Fund Ltd

The Meeting Commenced at 19.30

Directors Present : C Bloomfield (Treasurer), C Bruce (Chair), Helen Taylor-Brown
David Mumford (by video link).

Apologies: Kelvin Darcy-Burt, Wendy Smillie, Suzie Fletcher

Additional attendees: Lennox Web, Anne Lyall, Cllr. Lynn Jardine, Mitchell
Stevenson

Directors Resignations confirmed : Peter Branfield on 19th June 2024

2. Opening of ELCBF Ltd first AGM

The meeting was declared quorate (4 Directors are required), It was noted the
Company was incorporated on the 9th Dec 2023, so first accounts are due within 15
months of that date.

3. Confirmation and re-election of Directors

Chris Bruce and Colin Bloomfield formally stood down from their roles.

Their re-election was proposed by Helen Taylor-Brown and seconded by David
Mumford.

All present agreed to their re-election.

It was proposed to elect Suzie Fletcher (who had requested to be considered before
the meeting) as a Director and this was accepted

4. Treasurer's Report.

Our first accounts are due after the first date of incorporation, 9th December 2024.

CB reported that 2 accounts have been opened, a current account and 30 day notice
account.

Current account balance is £9560.00

The 30 day account balance is £94,674.35.

These monies are an accumulation of returned project funds and yet to be issued
grants, Notably:

Spott Hall green initiative measures £39.5k (returned)
East Lammermuir 'ELGO' bus initiative, that was cancelled (£25k) (returned)
Oldhamstocks Village hall 2nd half of grant costs £29,600 (to be issued in due course to Oldhamstocks CA) and various other historical very small returned funding amounts (the balance).

In 2 months to 1/10/24 we have received interest totalling £272.14 from the interest paying account. The aim of the 30 day notice account is to use any interest to finance the annual 'running' costs for ELCC, ELCBT and ELCBF Ltd, leaving more money available to distribute to grant applications.

There have been no outgoings to date.

This fund will be used to receive annual funding from FOR Crystal Rig 3
The CR3 legal contract with FOR is now complete and has been signed by Fred Olsen Board Directors.
Other Legal documents have been required to transfer CR3 rights from ELCC (who were the original named body in the first CR3 agreement) to ELCB Fund Ltd. These have also finally been signed off by all legal advisors and all companies involved

ELCBF Ltd is set up to be able to receive incomes from almost any donor, and is also able to do much more than ELCC can do in constitutional terms.

I hope, as a result of the creation of ELCB Fund Ltd we will be able to provide more funding for our local communities in East Lammermuir.

5. Chairpersons Report

I'm delighted to be speaking at the first Annual General Meeting of ELCB Fund Ltd. These are two new bodies designed to ensure the appropriate distribution and use of community benefit funds in East Lammermuir for decades to come.

The Fund will focus on providing grants to community groups, voluntary organisations, charities, schools (for projects out-with the statutory responsibility of East Lothian Council) and social enterprises to support their activities within the East Lammermuir catchment area. Ideally, the Fund will support projects and infrastructure which promote the economic, social and/or environmental sustainability of the catchment area.

It seems right this evening to remember a little history.

The first meeting to consider a set of criteria for distribution of community benefit funds from the Crystal Rig 2 Windfarm was held on a Sunday in a farmhouse near Stenton in Summer 2010.

At that session it was felt that in due course we ought to establish a body separate from the community council, specifically to administer benefit funds – and to protect the individuals volunteering to help with this.

I want to mention Barbara Wylie, Janice Hanvidge and Janette MacDonald who as previous members of the community council did many hours of work to investigate what was required and how to get it to happen.

Since those three stepped down from the community council at various times, our new Treasurer Colin Bloomfield took over the work – and over several years of dogged determination has worked with legal advisors to get us to the point where we are up and running and able to hold these AGMs..

I wanted to put on record my personal thanks to Colin for the unseen hours and hours of work that have got us to this point. I appreciate it. I am sure the residents of East Lammermuir will benefit from this work.

So what are these bodies we are here to oversee?

ELCC administer the allocation of funding for local community projects from Fred Olsen Renewables, operators of the Crystal Rig wind farms. This currently amounts to £80,000 per year (from Crystal Rig 1 and 2).

East Lammermuir Community Benefit Fund Ltd and ELCB Trust have been set up to administer funding from other local renewable energy developments. At present this includes funding for local community projects from Fred Olsen Renewables, operators of the Crystal Rig wind farms, in the form of £57,000 from Crystal Rig 3. These sums vary annually in line with the Retail Price Index over the 25 year life of the wind farm schemes.

After some 15+ years of trying to make the most of the benefits funds available, the Community Councillors were keen to ensure that good ideas have the best chance of coming to fruition. Sometimes fully formed proposals come forward, with people ready to implement them – they are easy funding decisions to make. But at other times a good idea has no one willing to make it happen. So we prepared an arrangement that allows the both Directors and Trustees to act, as well as to provide funding.

East Lammermuir Community Benefit Fund Ltd (Registered Company Limited by Guarantee: SC792584) administers funding in the East Lammermuir area. Any group can apply for that funding according to the criteria set out on our website.

East Lammermuir Community Benefit Trust (Registered SCIO: SC052845) suggests, administers and implements charitable works. It will apply to the Fund for money to do such works.

Both the Fund and the Trust have a majority of members who are community councillors. This means that there is a democratic route to change the trustees should the community wish to do so, as all community councillors are required to stand for election once every 5 years.

At the same time, there are seats on each body for non-community councillors, to ensure a broader perspective on decisions, and a differential between the two groups.

The future

In the light of the (currently 14) known electricity generation and infrastructure developments proposed for the East Lammermuir area, we anticipate additional funding will flow through the Fund and Trust over the coming years.

The first example of this is the proposed Co-ordinator Post to work between the community,

the developers and the Council. We are in discussion with SPEN and SSE about the funding route for this post which they have agreed to fund for the first three years.

If anyone listening feels inspired to get involved, please do talk to one of the Directors after the meeting closes.

5 AOCB

No other business or items were raised.

The meeting was closed .

Minutes recorded by C Bloomfield 05.12.2024